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Department of Theatre to Stage Comedic Play The Importance of Being Earnest

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Department of Theatre to Stage Comedic Play The Importance of Being Earnest

Quick Facts

Winthrop University's Department of Theatre and Dance will present the comedic play about mistaken identities and good manners on April 3-7 in Johnson Theatre.



Student actors J.T. Rider, from left, Briana Parks, Michelle McMurray and Kashaad Kraus.

ROCK HILL, S.C. -- Does the name "Earnest" make a person more credible and loveable?

John Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, the two main male characters in **Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest,"** certainly think so. **Winthrop University's Department of Theatre and Dance** will present the comedic play about **mistaken identities and good manners** on Wednesday, April 3 at 8 p.m. in **Johnson Theatre**.

The trouble with "Earnest" begins when Jack, played by **Kashaad Kraus**, invents a fake brother named Earnest as a cover for his secret rendezvous in London. He sets his eyes and heart on Gwendolen Fairfax (**Michelle McMurray**), cousin of his friend Algernon, played by **J.T. Rider**. Gwendolen decides she could never marry a man named Earnest, which causes Jack to keep up the charade. Meanwhile, Algernon discovers Jack's secret and presents himself to Jack's ward Cecily Cardew (**Briana Parks**) as Earnest, the wayward brother. Hilarity ensues as the identities begin to collide.

Other students in the production are **Erik Brower** as Merriman; **Jed Cockerill** as Lane; **Shareef Elkady** as Lady Bracknell; **Haley Phillips** as Miss Prism; and **Ted Patterson** as Dr. Causable.

"It has been a pleasure to work with such a talented design team and talented actors," said Russell Luke, professor of theatre. "The actors have all given 100 percent and have worked extra-hard in short period of time. I believe that the audience would love this comedy. It is a classic, lighthearted satire full of witty, memorable lines."

Show times are 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 3-Saturday, April 6 with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday, April 7.

Tickets are \$5 on Thursday, April 4 with a Winthrop ID; \$8 for all other show times with a Winthrop ID; and \$15 to the public for all show times. Tickets are general admission.

For tickets call the box office at 803/323-4014 or e-mail them at boxoffice@winthrop.edu.

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